



A History of River Road??

Settlement in the River Road area dates back to 1850 with the passing of the Donation Land Claim Act. The area was settled by only a handful of families in the beginning, it eventually grew to become an important agricultural area growing crops such as, hops, flax, wheat, oats, rye, barley, and numerous orchards. As agricultural output increased, there became more trade and an increased demand for regional transportation. The old Territorial Highway, which was Oregon's first north south road, ran through the area. We know this transportation route today as River Road.



River Road. Black-top was finished in 1920.

Unfortunately, no definitive history of the River Road area appears to exist. To document the unique cultural and historic features of the area, the City of Eugene is researching the history of the River Road area south of Beltline Highway. The final document will explain the development history of the area from Native American occupation to 1965, with attention paid to existing historic resources that are over 50 years old.

To obtain a better understanding of the historic resources of the area, we invite longtime residents of the River Road area to share their memories and experiences. Such information may include facts about houses, barns, churches, schools, businesses, events or simply fond memories of these places. Please fill out the following form with information or stories that you would like to share. The information you provide will help us to accurately document the history of the River Road area in the upcoming publication. Thank You!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Resident Information:

How long have you lived in the River Road area? _____

At what River Road addresses have you lived? _____

Where did you move from? _____

What do you like most about living in the River Road area?

Family Information:

Did your parents or grandparents live in the River Road area?

If so, when did they move here, and where did they move from?

What did your mother and father do to earn a living?

How did your grandparents earn a living?

Where did you and your family attend school in the River Road area?

If your family attended religious services, where did they attend?



*Norman Farmhouse style
residence on Sunnyside Dr.*

Area Businesses:

What were the most common ways people made a living?

Where did you do your grocery and hardware shopping?

Were there local nurseries you used? _____

What other businesses were important to the River Road area? _____

Events:

Do you have memories of the flooding of the Willamette River? (1945 & 1964?) Describe. _____



River Road during the flood of 1946. Picture courtesy of Lewis Photo Company Collection at Lane County Historical Museum.

Are there other important events that happened in the River Road area that you think need to be passed on to the next generation?

How did the River Road area change during the Great Depression?

What impact did World War I and World War II have on the development of the River Road area?

Resource Information:

What historic resources do you remember that no longer exist today? (Houses, barns, churches, bridges, schools, businesses, orchards or landmarks.)



Centennial barn at the Beebe Farm in lower River Road.

Are there special historic trees or landscape features that we should know about?

If you could save any building or landmark that still exists in the River Road area today, what would it/they be? And why?

** If you have other comments or stories that you would like to add please staple any additional pages to this document.*

Contact Information

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to be involved in the project, please contact:

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Access the City of Eugene Historic Preservation web page at:
<http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/PDD/planning.eugenehistoric/default.htm>

Access River Road Community Organization web page at:
<http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/neighbor>